

CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated below:

1-10. (canceled).

11. (currently amended) A method of making a glass shape comprising a step of providing a heating chamber, the heating chamber having a single inlet and a single outlet, a step of pushing a solid glass rod into the inlet and a step of pulling a shape from the outlet, ~~The method of claim 10~~ wherein the inlet comprises a heated cone, the cone melting the exterior of the rod and forming a molten glass seal at the inlet.

12. (original) A method of making a glass shape comprising a step of providing a heating chamber, the heating chamber having a single inlet and a single outlet, and a step of pushing a solid glass rod into the inlet, wherein the inlet comprises a heated cone, the cone melting the exterior of the rod and forming a molten glass seal at the inlet.

13. (original) The method of claim 12 wherein the inlet has a diameter slightly smaller than the diameter of the rod.

14. (original) The method of claim 13 wherein the rod has a diameter, which varies at least 0.5% and no more than 5%.

15. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the inlet has a diameter 0.5% to 5% smaller than the smallest diameter of the rod.

16-26. (canceled).

27. (original) An apparatus adapted to form a hollow tube, the apparatus comprising a heated chamber having an outlet, a die in the outlet, and a hollow inner forming tube extending from the vicinity of the outlet, within an inside dimension of the die, through a gland in a wall of the chamber.

28. (original) The apparatus of claim 27 further comprising an adjustment device operatively attached to a part of the hollow inner forming tube outside the chamber.

29. (original) The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the inner forming tube is straight, the apparatus further comprising an inlet passage having an axis parallel to the inner forming tube and offset from the inner forming tube.

30. (original) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the chamber is filled with molten glass, the glass being cooler adjacent the gland and adjacent the die than the

average temperature of the glass in the chamber, the gland forming a seal of glass between the inner forming tube and an opening in a wall of the chamber.

31. (original) An apparatus for feeding glass rod sections comprising a plurality of feed drives, at least one of the feed drives being biased into engagement with the rod, a sensor for detecting rod section ends, and a mechanism for varying the bias of the at least one feed drive in response to the sensor to protect the rod ends.

32. (original) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the rod ends are abutting.

33-36 (canceled).

37. (currently amended) A method of controlling the rate at which a solid rod of heat-softenable material is fed through a heated restriction, the restriction softening at least an outer portion of the rod, the method comprising a step of determining changes in temperature at the restriction, and a step of controlling the rate of feeding the rod in response to changes in temperature at the restriction, ~~The method of claim 34~~ wherein the restriction is the inlet of a melting chamber.

38. (original) The method of claim 34 wherein the melting chamber includes an outlet, the material forming a draw down at the outlet.

39-63 (canceled).